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ELWOOD, IL 60421

Kick Off the Holiday Season

Elwood Lighting Celebration
At the Village Hall
December 2 - 5:00 to 8:30 PM



We have it on good authority that a special visitor will be riding in for the celebration.

There will be crafts to be created, food to be eaten and photos to be taken. Come join the celebration.



Catch the Light Tram Tour which will be running from the Village Hall providing a 20-minute ride through the village to see the beautiful holiday lights.



November 2017

Village of Elwood
401 E. Mississippi Avenue
Elwood, IL 60421
815-423-5011

Village President
Todd Matichak

Village Trustees
Doug Jenco

Darryl Lab

Dean Lowrance

Mary Matichak

Jasen Melahn

Village Clerk

Julie Friebele

Village Administrator
Marian Gibson

marian.gibson@villageofelwood.com

Chief of Police

Fred Hayes

elwoodpolice@villageofelwood.com

Public Works Superintendent

Larry Lolmar

public.works@villageofelwood.com

Finance Director

Robbie Day

robbie.day@villageofelwood.com

Code Enforcement & Permit Technician

Pat Winters

Pat.Winters@villageofelwood.com

Events Coordinator

Marie Rodgers

Marie.Rodgers@villageofelwood.com

villageofelwood.com

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Mayors's Message...



Hello fellow Elwoodians. Hope all are doing well. Fall weather is here and winter is right around the corner. If you have a fireplace please make sure your chimney is cleaned and inspected by a fire professional.

I hope everyone had a safe and fun Halloween. Please check out the Village of Elwood website to find out about upcoming programs and events.

Jack's Tap is now open. It is located between the Silver Dollar Restaurant and Hair Code in the unit where Java Jills was located. We are happy to have this new business in our community.

Midwin National Tallgrass Prairie and Abraham Lincoln National Cemetery draw a large number of visitors to our area each year. Midwin offers many miles of trails, beautiful scenery and incredible history, and of course the 50 bison on its 20,000 acre site.

The 982-acre National Cemetery is a special and sacred place where many men and women who served this great country have their final resting place. Please be aware and respectful of all funeral processions coming down Route 53. Wreaths Across America will be placing wreaths on the grave sites on December 16 and 17.

I would like to congratulate the entire Elwood soccer program on another fun and successful season. I hope all involved had as much fun as I had. Elwood relies on volunteers, so a huge thank you to coaches, players and parents.

If you have any questions or concerns, please contact the staff at the Village Hall. Take care, stay warm.

God Bless,

Todd Matichak

mayor.matichak@villageofelwood.com

Halloween Party Has Huge Crowd



Upcoming Meetings

*Planning and Zoning, November 28, 7 PM

*Village Board, December 6, 7 PM

Village Police Honored for Traffic Safety Enforcement

On September 14th, the Illinois Department of Transportation (IDOT) Law Enforcement Liaison Thomas Morey bestowed the Elwood Police Department with statewide recognition for traffic safety enforcement.

The department was presented with the 2017 Illinois Speed Awareness Day Excellence Award in recognition of outstanding and invaluable contribution to keeping Illinois safe. The Illinois Association of Chiefs of Police (ILACP) Traffic Safety Committee and FACES4.org selected Elwood Police to receive an Excellence Award based on the department's efforts put forth during the ILACP/FACES4.org Illinois Speed Awareness Day (ISAD) campaign.

Elwood Police joined forces with agencies statewide for the 2017 Illinois Speed Awareness Day Campaign held on July 26th. Officers issued over 40 speeding citations and 26 other citations and warnings that day.

The Department worked on a proactive approach to promote safety for motorists, pedestrians, and cyclists through both education and enforcement.

In Illinois during 2015, speed was the reason for 34.2% of all fatal crashes. That's 369 deaths for the year, or one life every 23.7 hours. These lives can be easily saved by being aware of our speed and understanding how speeding impacts a crash.



Officers Randy Lightfoot, Ed Wright, IDOT Liaison Thomas Morey, Officer Ken Jaburek, Chief Fred Hayes and Officer Nick Adams (left to right).

Permits/Applications available on Village Web Site

Do you need a Village permit or application?

You can go to the Village's web page, VillageofElwood.com under permits and applications to find a variety of forms making it much easier to complete before coming to Village Hall.

Under permits, you can learn more about what type of situations require a permit and the procedure for getting a permit. There are also permits for building and occupancy.

Under applications, you can find references for contractors, business licenses, right of ways, special use permits, etc.

Garden's Fall Fest Draws Big Crowd



The Children's Garden staff would like to give a heartfelt THANKS to all who helped make our Family Fall Fest on Sunday, October 1, a wonderful day!

Donors included:

Fruits of Elwood – Ed & Lil Kanive, Hauert Family, Midewin Tall Grass Prairie, Raceway Pizza, Subway, and community members that donated supplies.

Elwood/Jackson Township History Club

Come join them to learn about Elwood and Jackson Township history. Meetings are the second Thursday of each month, except December, at 1 PM at the Village Hall. There is an extensive library of pictures and articles you are able to view. Meetings are an opportunity to learn more about the area. Future newsletters will feature an Elwood History Corner.

Offices Closed for Holidays

November 10—Veteran's Day
November 23 & 24—Thanksgiving
December 22 to 25—Christmas Eve and Christmas
December 29—Noon, New Years Eve
January 1—New Years Day

If You Can Tie Your Shoes, You Can Learn to Play the Ukulele

Elwood is a very special place. I discovered this two summers ago when my band **The Ukulele Moonshiners** was hired to play an outdoor concert at the Elwood Children's Garden.

The driving directions from my GPS weren't finding the destination, so I asked an Elwood Police Officer for directions. I told him I was running late for a musical appearance and he said "We can't have you late for a concert, follow me." The night was perfect and the crowd was so much fun. It was great to see people of all ages enjoying an evening together.

This year when Sheila Meyers, Children's Garden Coordinator, called to book us again, I mentioned that the Garden would be an ideal setting for outdoor ukulele lessons and it became a reality.

We started in July and the total cost for six weeks of les-

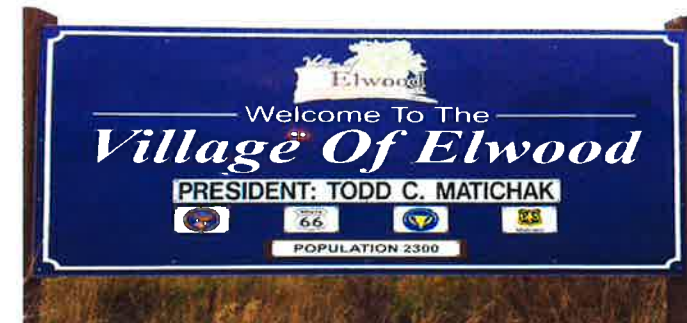
sons was \$25. All of the money collected was donated directly to the Garden. We had 35 people sign-up and everyone learned to play a song on the very first night.

In six weeks that phenomenal group of people (most of whom had never played a musical instrument before) learned enough chords to give a six song recital. Our lessons were so much fun we decided to continue on a monthly basis.

We now meet on the first Tuesday of every month, from 7 to 8:30 PM at the Elwood Village Hall. The cost is \$5 per lesson with the proceeds going to the Elwood Children's Garden. Beginners of all ages are welcome, with children accompanied by an adult.

If you have ever had a desire to play a musical instrument we encourage you to join us. The ukulele is a perfect instrument for learning to play music.

(This information was written by Stan Ketcik.)



The Midewin Logo has been added to the Village's "Welcome" signs.

Two new Members Join Village of Elwood's Planning and Zoning Commission

Two new members were recently appointed to the Village's Planning and Zoning Commission by Mayor Matichak. The Mayor also appointed Greg Hickey as Commission Chairman for a seven year term.

Retiree Thomas Nagel has lived in the village for two years. He and his wife, Janet, have two grown children and five grandchildren.



Retiree Doug Vaughn was born and raised in Elwood. He has lived here off and on for the past 30 years. He has three children and 10 grandchildren.



Greg Hickey is sworn in as Planning and Zoning commission Chairman.



**Jackson Township
Annual Toy Drive
December 8 at 7 PM
Stone City VFW,
Route 53**

Raffles, Entertainment & Snacks
Bring an unwrapped toy to receive a free drink

Bring any toy or pick-up a child's tag at the Village Hall, Elwood Church or by calling Danielle at 815-423-5809 (wfarming@aol.com)

Drop off toys by December 7th at any of the locations listed.

All donated toys will go to Jackson Township families in need. Let's help out our neighbors this Holiday season!!!!

Volunteers Needed

We need volunteers to help with the Elwood Lighting Celebration. If you are interested, please contact the Village Hall at 815-424-1093. Students can earn community service hours.